

(Washington DC) Congressman Charlie Gonzalez issued the following statement for Cesar Chavez's birthday:

"We owe much to the man who helped lead Latinos out of the darkness of segregation and into the light of the American dream. What Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was to African Americans and Mahatmas Gandhi was to Indians, Chavez is to Latinos. Our community would not be where it is today had it not been for his vision, leadership, and sacrifices.

Cesar Chavez epitomized the dream of building a better life for one's self. Coming from the most humble of beginnings, he became one of our nation's great leaders. His relentless yet non-violent leadership won humane working conditions for thousands of migrant workers. Every day that agricultural workers in America lead a more dignified, more humane life is tribute to Chavez.

While he has been gone for over 10 years his legacy endures. Latinos continue to do the work of making this country great and because he had the courage and bravery to stand up for Latinos, we can all stand tall and proud.

Moreover, Chavez lived by the principle "The love for justice that is in us is not only the best part of our being but it is also the most true to our nature." His very life was an eloquent testament to this credo.

Let us never forget the battles fought and won by Cesar Chavez."